

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, and 17-21 are currently pending in the Application. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice; the Applicants reserve the right to pursue cancelled Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17 in a Continuation Application. Accordingly, Claims 4-7, 11-14, and 18-21 remain pending in this Application.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. US 2003/0216158 A1 to Bischoff. The Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17 without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 4-7, 11-14, and 18-21 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 4 has been amended and rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of independent base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 3. Thus, no new matter, or issues that would require a further search or consideration, have been added. It is thus believed that new independent Claim 4 is patentable and in condition for allowance. Further, it is believed that original dependent Claims 5-7 are also patentable and in condition for allowance as being dependent upon an allowable base claim (amended Claim 4).

Claim 11 has also been amended and rewritten in independent form to include all

of the limitations of independent base Claim 8 and intervening Claim 10. Thus, no new matter, or issues that would require a further search or consideration, have been added. It is thus believed that new independent Claim 11 is patentable and in condition for allowance. Further, it is believed that original dependent Claims 12-13 are also patentable and in condition for allowance as being dependent upon an allowable base claim (amended Claim 11).

Claim 14 has also been amended and rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of independent base Claim 8. Thus, no new matter, or issues that would require a further search or consideration, have been added. It is thus believed that new independent Claim 14 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

Finally, Claim 18 has been amended and rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of independent base Claim 15 and intervening Claim 17. Thus, no new matter, or issues that would require a further search or consideration, have been added. It is thus believed that new independent Claim 18 is patentable and in condition for allowance. Further, it is believed that original dependent Claims 19-21 are also patentable and in condition for allowance as being dependent upon an allowable base claim (amended Claim 18).


Conclusion

In summary, and in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions in the April 29, 2005 Final Rejection, the above amendments put the pending claims in position for allowance. More specifically, Claims 4, 11, 14, and 18 have been amended and rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their independent base claims and

any intervening claims. It is thus believed that independent Claims 4, 11, 14, and 18 are patentable and in condition for allowance along with original dependent Claims 5-7, 12-13, and 19-21, which now depend from allowable base claims.

It is believed that an extra claim fee of \$200.00 is due for the filing of this Amendment. Thus, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge \$200.00, or any additional fee required to secure entry of this Amendment, to deposit account No. 03-1025. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Brant T. Maurer
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 53,285

CNH America LLC
Intellectual Property Law Dept.
700 State Street
Racine, Wisconsin 53404
Customer No. 26637
(262) 636-5368